Imagine waking up to a cool refreshing stream, springing into the water, bobbing up and down. The cool water splashing in your face. “Splash!” as your friend dives in. Then you hop out of the water, you look at your body. It’s covered in a brown gooey slime. During my speech I hope to convince you that cows can kill wildlife like plants and bush.

When cows poo in rivers and lakes it kills fish. Not only does it kill fish it stops people from swimming in it and drinking it. Every year thousands of fish are affected by cows pooing in streams. People can also catch diseases from swimming in it or drinking from affected waters. People can get diseases from cryptosporidium or vomiting. Some people even have to go to hospital if it gets bad enough, which can cost a lot. Not only does it harm people and fish it can also kill native plants. Lots of plants have died because of cows.

The council spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on cleaning up lakes, rivers and lagoons. Instead of spending that money on lakes, rivers and lagoons we could use it on something else, like the Christchurch earth quake fund. The council could buy every kid that goes to school a laptop. We could hire more doctors so the wait at the hospital isn’t quite so long. There’s heaps of other things almost to many to list. Imagine what we could do? Maybe invent a hover car.

What could we do about it? I think we could ban cows 200 hundred meters from any lakes and rivers, and 50 meters from any stream that runs through a paddock, because the streams have to join up somewhere. If these rules get put in place dairy farmers should be made sure that it happens. There should be a consequence if the rule is broken, a fine should occur because in the long run it will wreck the future. Imagine there being no fish left in rivers and lakes.

To sum up, cows kill fish and wreck lakes and rivers. The council spends lots of money on rivers, lakes and lagoons that we could use better. If we have the correct rules and fines this would not happen. Thanks for listening.

Josh Hart